

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 44 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 44 have been rejected in the Office Action mailed July 27, 2006.

Applicants herewith confirm the election of the embodiment of the invention in claim 3 comprising a binder that is a mixture of styrene acrylic, polyester urethane and fluoroethylene/alkyl vinyl ether copolymer. It is believed that all of the remaining claims are readable thereon.

Claims 18 and 40 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c). Claims 18 and 40 have been cancelled.

Claims 4 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The term "fluorinated alternative copolymers" has been deleted from those claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4 and 26 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1 – 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The term "high molecular weight" as a characterization of the silicone component has been deleted from the claims. For clarity, the molecular weight range of the silicone has been added to claims 1 and 23 and claims 8 and 30 have been cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 7, 9 – 17, 19 – 29, 31 – 39, and 41 – 44 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 5, 10 – 18, 20, 25, 27, 32 – 39 and 42 would be patentable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants are grateful for this indication. Claims 8, 18, 30 and 40 have been cancelled. Accordingly, as the Examiner stated that "there is nothing in the prior art that motivates one to also add a polyurethane and a fluoropolymer", independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include the blend of polyurethane resin and fluoropolymer of claims 3 and 25 respectively. The acrylic component of claims 3 and 25 has been retained in those claims as an additional ingredient. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 7, 9 – 17, 19 – 29, 31 – 39, and 41 – 44 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 – 2, 6 – 9, 18 – 19 and 21 – 22 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0073779, filed by Tamori. Claims 8 and 18 have been cancelled. In view of the amendments set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 2, 6 – 7, 9, 19 and 21 – 22 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Tamori.

Claims 23 – 24, 28 – 31, 40 – 41 and 43 – 44 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tamori in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,567,353, issued to Bogan. Claims 30 and 40 have been cancelled. In view of the amendments set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 23 – 24, 28 – 29, 31, 41 and 43 – 44 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tamori in view of Bogan.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Almer

Reg. No. 36,731

Tel. No. 908 707-3738

National Starch and Chemical Company
10 Finderne Avenue
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
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